

NATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION CENTER



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Imagery analysis report

New High-Frequency Communications Facilities Under Construction in Cuba (TSR)

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NEW HIGH-FREQUENCY COMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES UNDER CONSTRUCTION IN CUBA (TSR)

INTRODUCTION

1. (TSR) Two new high-frequency (HF) communications facilities are under construction in western Cuba. Santiago de Las Vegas HF Radio Communications Station [] 8 nautical miles (nm) south of Havana (Figure 1), is a receiver facility consisting of fishbone antennas and a central control area. El Gabriel HF Communications Center [] 20 nm south-southwest of Havana (Figure 1), is a transmitter/receiver facility consisting of rhombic antennas, rigid dipole antennas, and a central control area. The two facilities are approximately 10 nm apart.

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BASIC DESCRIPTION

2. (TSR) The Santiago de Las Vegas HF Radio Communications Station (Figure 2) consists of a central control area in the midstage of construction, a construction camp, and an antenna field. The antenna field has masts in place for two 2-2-2-2 fishbone antennas (items A and B, Figure 2 and Table 1); masts are being erected for the third fishbone (item C); and ground preparation is underway for at least five additional antennas (items D through H).

3. (TSR) The perimeter of this facility is fence secured and the central control area is in the process of being separately fenced. The facility was first identified on imagery of [] [] A review of previous imagery revealed that construction was initiated between August 1977 and July 1978.

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4. (TSR) The El Gabriel HF Communications Center (Figure 3) consists of a central control area in the midstage of construction, a construction camp, and an antenna field with 22 rhombic (items A through W, Figure 3 and Table 1) and seven rigid dipole (items A-1 through G-1) antennas under construction.

5. (TSR) Although masts had not yet been erected on [] (Figure 3), SR-71 imagery of [] revealed that masts were in place for the 22 double rhombic antennas. Their orientation further indicates that as many as ten frequency-diverse pairs and possibly one space-diverse pair had been erected. The rigid dipole antennas in various stages of erection appeared to be arranged in day/night pairs.

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6. (TSR) The facility is enclosed by perimeter fencing with the central control area separately secured. It was first identified on imagery of [] A review of previous imagery revealed that the central control area had been cleared by August 1976, and the initial stages of construction had begun by July 1977.

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REFERENCE

MAP

JOG. Series 1501, Sheet NF 17-6, ed 1, Oct 67 (US OFFICIALS ONLY)

(S) Comments and queries regarding this report are welcome. They may be directed to [] Middle East and Free World Division, Imagery Exploitation Group, NPIC, []

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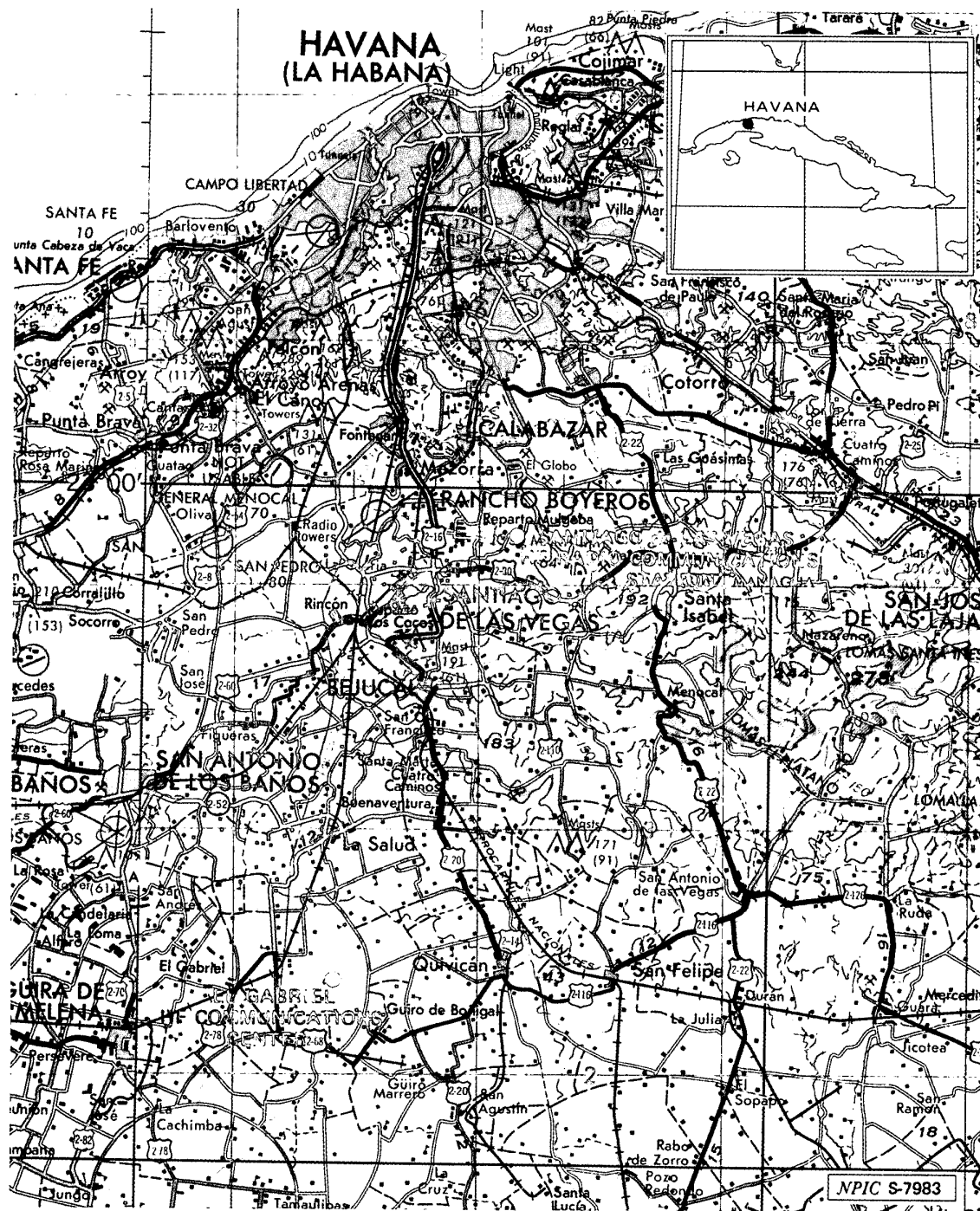


FIGURE 1. LOCATIONS OF NEW HF COMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES, CUBA

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Table 1.
Azimuths of Antennas at El Gabriel HF Communications Center
and Santiago De Las Vegas HF Radio Communications Station, Cuba

This table in its entirety is classified TOP SECRET RUFF

El Gabriel (Keyed to Figure 3)		Santiago de Las Vegas (Keyed to Figure 2)	
Antenna (Rhombic)	Azimuth* (deg)	Antenna (Fisbone)	Azimuth** (deg)
A			
B			
C			
D			
E			
F			
G			
H			
J			
K			
L			
M			
N			
O			
P			
Q			
R			
S			
T			
U			
V			
W			
(Dipole)			
A-1			
B-1			
C-1			
D-1			
E-1			
F-1			
G-1			

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